

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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MCT-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAM-01 /079 W

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R 301345Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6523

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY, XF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AND SYRIAN ROLE IN CAIRO PRESS

1. AUGUST 28-30 CAIRO PRESS DEVOTED ONLY LIGHT COVERAGE TO SITUATION ON GROUND. SUMMITRY (SEPTTEL) AND EXCORIATION OF SYRIA WERE MAJOR ITEMS.

2. MOVEMENTS. BRIEF REPORTS NOTED SARKIS PROCEEDS TO DAMASCUS AUGUST 31 FOLLOWING DAY TRIP BY AL-KHULI AND GENERAL GHUNAYM FOR TALKS WITH KHADDAM AND FATAH LEADERS ABU MAZIN AND ABU MAHIR. REPORTS SAID DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON CEASE-FIRE POSSIBILITIES, BUT AL-KHULI SAID HOPES FOR SUCCESS CLOUDED BY SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LATEST CLASHES. RADIO REPORTS AL-KHULI ARRIVED IN CAIRO AUGUST 30 A.M. FARUQ QADDUMI ARRIVED IN CAIRO AUGUST 29 FOR TALKS WITH FAHMY. PRESS NOTES HE CRITICIZED SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON IN AL-SIYASA INTERVIEW.

3. ASAD, BA'ATH, AND ISRAEL. PRESS DREW HEAVILY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEMES OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI COLLUSION, REPORTS OF "TRANQUILITY

ON SYRIAN FRONT," AND STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI LEADERSHIP
"PRAISING" SYRIA FOR EXTENSIVE HOSTILE COMMENTARY.
EXCEPTIONALLY ROUGH AHRAH EDITORIAL AUGUST 28 BLASTED
ASAD. HE FLOPPED IN GOLAN DURING OCTOBER WAR AND NOW
FAILING IN "BATTLE OF SHAME" ASSISTED BY LEBANESE RIGHTISTS
AND ISRAELIS. LEADERS OF "PUPPET ALAWY BA'ATH" HAVE INFLICTED
GREATEST SET BACK ON ARAB NATION IN MODERN HISTORY. ASAD
SURE TO BE "TREAD UPON" BY SYRIAN ARMY FOR PUSHING IT INTO
BATTLE WHICH NOT ITS OWN. BA'ATH AND DAYAN DESCRIBED AS
CAHOOTING IN ATTACKS ON EGYPT, PROOF OF BA'ATH'S SOLIDARITY
WITH ENEMY OF ARAB NATION. WITH LITTLE VARIATION, EDITORIALS
COMMENTED ON PUBLICLY-EXPRESSED ISRAELI SENSE OF SECURITY
BECAUSE SYRIAN FORCES NO LONGER POSE A THREAT. "EXTENT OF
BA'ATHIST TREASON" AND COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL DEMONSTRATED
IN ISRAELI STATEMENTS. SYRIAN PEOPLE'S SENSE OF SHAME AND
DISGRACE WOULD BE MOTIVE BEHIND "GETTING RID OF THE
TRAITORS."

4. GUMHURRIYA, CITING AFP, REPORTS ON ARREST OF 270
SYRIAN OFFICERS IN FOURTH ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT AGAINST "FAILING
SYRIAN REGIME".
EILTS

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